

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 10442 01 OF 02 101917Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
ITC-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 AF-10
ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 IO-14 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /159 W
-----076080 101932Z /45

O 101859Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1844
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 10442

USMTN

ACTION STR
PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY
STR PASS CODEL

PASS USIAC

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN
SUBJECT: STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS BY AMBASSADOR ROBERT S.
STRAUSS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF ANSWERS BY AMBASSADOR
ROBERT S. STRAUSS TO QUESTIONS BY A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY
15 REPORTERS WHO MET HIM BRIEFLY OUTSIDE THE ILO
AUDITORIUM IN GENEVA IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE START OF
THE INFORMAL MEETING OF TOKYO ROUND PARTICIPANTS, 2:30 PM,
JULY 10.

2. Q. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THEM IN THERE?
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 10442 01 OF 02 101917Z

A. I THINK WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO GIVE A BIT OF A
SUMMARY OF WHERE WE ARE. I THINK THAT IN MANY AREAS
WE ARE IN AN EXCEEDINGLY POSITIVE POSTURE. THERE ARE
ALSO SOME AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE WHERE I DON'T THINK WE
ARE IN A POSITIVE POSTURE.

WE'VE INCREASED OUR DELEGATION FROM ABOUT 30 TO 90 THIS WEEK. WE HAVE BROUGHT HERE THE AUTHORITY OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT; THE AUTHORITY OF THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT; THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT; THE AUTHORITY OF THE NSC AND OTHERS. OUR PEOPLE ARE HERE, AND I HAVE THE FULL AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO NEGOTIATE IN WHAT I TERM TO BE A FORTHCOMING MANNER AND TO BE FAIR IN OUR APPROACHES AND NOT BE FOOLISH. WE ARE GOING TO DO THAT. WE ARE GOING TO BE FIRM--MAYBE NOT STERN--BUT VERY FIRM IN SEEKING CERTAIN THINGS THAT WE THINK ARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM FOR BOTH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE LDC'S AND ALSO TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF OUR OWN NATION. BUT WE HAVEN'T FOUND THE BALANCE YET IN A NUMBER OF AREAS.

WE MADE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS IN THE LAST 48 HOURS WITH THE EEC, AND WE ARE JUST BEGINNING NOW TO WORK WITH THE JAPANESE WHOSE DELEGATION ONLY ARRIVED YESTERDAY. SO I AM NOT DISPLEASED WITH OUR PROGRESS, NOR AM I SATISFIED AS WE NEAR THE END.

Q. HAS PRESIDENT CARTER GIVEN YOU BACKUP WITH A DIRECT LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN ON THIS PROBLEM?

A. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS GIVEN ME A POWER OF ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT OUR COUNTRY AS HE HAS ALWAYS DONE IN EVERY-
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENEVA 10442 01 OF 02 101917Z

THING AND WITH HIS FULL SUPPORT. PRESIDENT CARTER IS AS COMMITTED TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS AS ANY MAN OR WOMAN COULD BE. HE HAS GIVEN ME FULL NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY. HE HOPES VERY MUCH THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THIS PACKAGE, A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF IT, FOR THE BONN SUMMIT. BUT IF WE CAN'T, WE CAN'T.

Q. ON AGRICULTURE, ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS ...?

A. THERE ARE A LOT OF PROBLEMS LEFT IN AGRICULTURE.

Q. HAVE YOU SOLVED MANY WITH THE EEC?

A. YES, WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS WITH THE EEC.

Q. ON ACCESS?

A. WE'VE MADE PROGRESS ON OUR AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS WITH THE EEC. WE'VE MADE OVERALL PROGRESS WITH THE EEC, INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, I WOULD SAY. THERE ARE MANY THINGS LEFT TO BE DONE.

Q. INCLUDING WITH JAPAN?

A. WELL, WE ARE JUST STARTING WITH JAPAN.

Q. SIR, WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NOT BEING FOOLISH?"

A. WELL, I MEAN WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO GIVE AWAY EVERY-
THING. WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO GIVE AWAY THE STORE. WE
CAME HERE TO BE FORTHRIGHT, FORTHCOMING, BUT WE ALSO
CAME HERE TO BE FIRM AND TO LOOK AFTER OUR OWN INTERESTS.

Q. HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE YOUR RELATIONS WITH THE
JAPANESE AT THIS POINT?

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 10442 02 OF 02 101920Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 10442

USMTN

ACTION STR; PASS STR ELECTRONCIALLY; STR PASS CODEL
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A. MY PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP . . .

Q. NO, I MEAN IN TERMS OF HOW FAR THE DISTANCE . . .

A. I WOULD SAY THE DISTANCE--WELL, WE HAVEN'T SOLVED A
NUMBER OF THE PROBLEMS AND WE HAVE TO FIND SOME SOLUTIONS
IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS AND WE HAVE TO DEFINE WHAT
WE CAN DO.

Q. HOW BIG WILL THE PACKAGE BE?

A. IT WILL BE A VERY SUBSTANTIAL PACKAGE WE WILL GO TO BONN WITH IN MY JUDGMENT. THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE WON'T BE HOLES LEFT IN IT. I SAID SO LAST WEEK. I HAVE KEPT THE PRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ADVISED OF WHERE WE STOOD AS WE MOVED ALONG. I'M GOING TO CONTINUE TO DO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 10442 02 OF 02 101920Z

JUST EXACTLY THAT. I GOT HERE BEING CANDID, AND I EXPECT TO STAY HERE BEING CANDID. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT TO BE TOLD EXACTLY WHERE WE STAND. PRESIDENT CARTER BELIEVES IN BEING OPEN AND CANDID, AND I HAVE BEEN THAT WAY.

Q. SIR, DOES JULY 15 STILL MEAN SOMETHING TO YOU?

A. JULY 15 MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO US. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE 90 PEOPLE HERE NOW WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK.

Q. (INAUDIBLE, CONCERNED WHAT COULD BE ACHIEVED BY JULY 15)

A. I THINK THERE WILL BE A GREAT DEAL ACHIEVED BETWEEN NOW AND JULY 15, AND I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT. I ALSO THINK THERE WILL BE SOME THINGS UNACHIEVED.

Q. SIR, I READ IN THE HERALD TRIBUNE THAT YOU HAD MORE OR LESS GIVEN UP HOPE OF OBTAINING A SATISFACTORY RESULT BY JULY 15.

A. WELL THEN, YOU MISREAD THE STORY BECAUSE I READ THE SAME STORY, AND IT DIDN'T SAY THAT. IT SAID THAT WE DIDN'T THINK THAT WE WOULD COMPLETE THE PACKAGE BY JULY 15 BECAUSE WE DIDN'T SEE AGRICULTURE COMING INTO PLACE. I SAID THAT THEN, AND I REPEAT IT NOW.

Q. YOU ALSO MENTIONED COUNTERVAILING AND SUBSIDIES. IS THAT . . .

A. WELL, WE MADE SOME PROGRESS THERE, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO NEGOTIATE THE DEAL HERE IN THE PRESS. THAT'S ONE THING WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO. YOU HAVE ASKED FOR AN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 10442 02 OF 02 101920Z

ASSESSMENT, AND I HAVE GIVEN YOU ONE AS FORTHRIGHTLY AS I CAN, AND I APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST.

Q. YOU SAID, SIR, THAT YOU ARE CONFIDENT OF AN OVERALL
OUTLINE AGREEMENT EXCEPT FOR AGRICULTURE.

A. YES, I FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT WE CAN DO THAT. I
THINK WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN TAKE
A SUBSTANTIAL PACKAGE TO BONN. I DON'T THINK WE ARE
GOING TO TAKE A COMPLETED PACKAGE IN AGRICULTURE. I'VE
SAID THAT. THE MINUTE I REALIZED IT WAS TRUE, I WENT
TO THE PRESIDENT AND SAID SO. NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO
CHANGE MY MIND ON THAT, AND I ALSO WILL SAY TO YOU UNTIL
WE GET A SATISFACTORY PACKAGE IN AGRICULTURE, INsofar AS
WE ARE CONCERNED, WE HAVE NO OVERALL AGREEMENT. I SAID
ON THE DAY I ENTERED THIS JOB THAT AGRICULTURE HAD BEEN
LEFT BEHIND A BIT IN THE KENNEDY ROUND AND THAT IT WOULD
NOT BE SO LEFT BEHIND IN THE TOKYO ROUND. I AM COMMITTED
TO THAT INDIVIDUALLY, AND WE ARE COMMITTED AS A GOVERNMENT.
THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT BY ME, AND I INTEND TO
FULFILL THAT COMMITMENT. THANK YOU.

Q. DOES THAT ALSO APPLY, SIR, TO SUBSIDY/COUNTERVAIL?

A. YOU'LL HAVE TO READ INTO THAT WHAT YOU WANT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA10442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780282-0527
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA USMTN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780780/aaaacpot.tel
Line Count: 249
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b089e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2072757
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS BY AMBASSADOR ROBERT S. STRAUSS
TAGS: ETRD, US, GATT, MTN, (STRAUSS, ROBERT S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b089e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014